

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CT
SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL CHANGES

1. GOCAE HAS ANNOUNCED MINOR MINISTERIAL CHANGES WHICH CONTINUE TO LEAVE RELATIVELY INTACT THE GOVERNMENT AS ESTABLISHED AFTER DECLARATION OF THE EMPIRE IN DECEMBER 1976. THE CHANGES ARE:
JEAN-ROBERT ZANA HAS RETURNED TO POST OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE.
RIGOBERT YOMBO, HAS BEEN PROMOTED FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO MINISTER FOR ENERGY, MINES AND GEOLOGY.
JUSTIN SALAMATE, FORMERLY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, HAS JOINED THE CABINET AS MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.
JEAN-PIERRE BOUBA, FORMERLY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, IS NOW MINISTER OF TRANSPORT.
ANDRE-CHRISTIAN ZANA-FE-TOUAM-BONA, MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE GVERNEMENT, HAS BEEN NAMED SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE BRAZZAVILLE-BASED ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN PRODUCERS AND EXPORTS OF WOOD, A POST WHICH IS EARMARKED FOR A CENTRAL AFRICAN.
ALPHONSE MOSSABA IV, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, HAS JOINED THE CABINET AS SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE MINISTRY OF THE

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INTERIOR.

2. COMMENT: THE RETURN OF ZANA IS SIGNIFICANT. HE WAS DISMISSED IN SEPTEMBER 1977 AND REPLACED BY BOKASSA'S ELDEST SON, GEORGE, WHO HELD THE PORTFOLIO AS A MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL COURT RATHER THAN AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT. GEORGE FELL OUT OF FAVOR, AND DEFENSE WAS HANDLED OTHERS

AT THE IMPERIAL COURT, ALTHOUGH THESE CHANGES WERE NEVER ANNOUNCED. NOW ZANA IS BACK, AND DEFENSE IS AGAIN PART OF THE GOVERNMENT. EVEN THIS WAS NOT FORMALLY ANNOUNCED, HOWEVER. INSTEAD, RADIO LISTENERS LEARNED THAT ZANA HAD PRESIDED OVER ONE OF THE MARCH 29 CEREMONIES ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF BOGANDA'S DEATH AS MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

3. THE OTHER CHANGES ARE NOT SURPRISING AND IN GENERAL SHOULD RESULT IN SMOOTHER OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, ZANA-FE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE STRONGER PERSONALITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND HIS DEPARTURE WILL REDUCE BY ONE THE NUMBER OF EXPERIENCED MINISTERS AVAILABLE TO HANDLE SPECIAL PROJECTS, MEETINGS AND VISITS.

4. THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR WILL "COORDINATE ALL THE DIFFERENT POLICE SERVICES" ACCORDING TO THE PRESSE IMPERIALE. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THIS DIFFERS FROM HIS OLD JOB, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE.
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